

Message Text

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20

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /080 W

----- 093760

R 280730Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6282

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HERTZBERG, ARTHUR)

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA TO OPPOSE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5020 (NOTAL); (B) WELLINGTON 1993 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: RABBI ARTHUR HERTZBERG, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, HAD PRIVATE LUNCHEON MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM JULY 28. WHITLAM SAID THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD VOTE AND LOBBY AGAINST ANY UN RESOLUTION SEEKING TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN. END SUMMARY.

2. RABBI ARTHUR HERTZBERG, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, HAD LUNCHEON MEETING ALONE WITH AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IN CANBERRA JULY 28. HERTZBERG'S PLANS HAVE CHANGED, AND HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE AT WHITLAM DINNER JULY 29 (REF A). LUNCHEON WAS OFF THE RECORD, DID NOT APPEAR ON WHITLAM'S CALENDAR, AND GOES UNRECORDED IN AUSTRALIA. HERTZBERG DESCRIBED MEETING AS MOST CORDIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL, WITH WHITLAM AT HIS CHARMING BEST.

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HERTZBERG RETURNING TO SYDNEY AFTERNOON OF JULY 28, WILL LEAVE FOR

AUCKLAND ON JULY 29 ON QANTAS FLIGHT 945, ARRIVING AT 2:30 PM LOCAL TIME. HE WILL CALL AMBASSADOR SELDEN FROM AUCKLAND. (EMBASSY WELLINGTON PLEASE PASS FLIGHT AND ARRIVAL TIME TO CONGEN AUCKLAND).

3. HERTZBERG SAID THAT WHITLAM HAD AGREED THAT U.S. AND AUSTRALIA SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN EAST ASIA. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES OF ANY SUBSTANCE AT PRESENT BETWEEN U.S. AND AUSTRALIA. WHITLAM WAS EMPHATIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ENDOWED A CHAIR OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES AT HARVARD AND HE PLANS TO COME TO HARVARD AT A SUITABLE TIME TO DEDICATE THE CHAIR.

4. HERTZBERG SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD WHITLAM THAT THE U.S. REALLY DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT TO CARRY THE BALL ALL BY ITSELF IN OPPOSING ISRAELI EXPULSION FROM THE UN. WHITLAM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND ADDED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT. WHITLAM WAS AWARE OF REMARKS MADE BY PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT IN KHARTOUM IN PAST FEW DAYS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL STEP IN RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS. WHITLAM TOOK MODEST AMOUNT OF CREDIT FOR THIS STATEMENT BY SADAT AS HE HAS DISCUSSED ISSUE RECENTLY WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MARZOUK AND URGED STATEMENT OF THIS KIND BE MADE BY SADAT.

5. HERTZBERG SAID HE TOLD WHITLAM THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD DONE DISSERVICE TO HIS OWN POSITION BY LEAVING ANY QUESTION AS TO HIS ATTITUDE ON ISRAEL. HE URGED PRIME MINISTER NOT RPT NOT MERELY TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS IN BITS AND PIECES IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT BUT RATHER TO MAKE MAJOR STATEMENT ON AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL. HERTZBERG FELT AFTER MEETING THAT THERE IS REAL PROSPECT THAT WHITLAM WILL MAKE SUCH MAJOR STATEMENT AT SUITABLE TIME IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

6. HERTZBERG SAID THAT, SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, HE HAD TOLD WHITLAM THAT IF ISRAEL IS EXPELLED FROM THE UN, THIS WILL BE THE END OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE UN AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT. HERTZBERG SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PART IN ACTIVITY OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT UN AS A WHOLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD SUFFER A BLOW FROM WHICH IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECOVER. HERTZBERG SAID HE HAD TOLD WHITLAM HE HIMSELF SUPPORTS THE STANCE OF ISRAEL DOVES ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS AND ALSO SUPPORTS POSITION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER.

7. WHITLAM EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE CONTACT WITH HERTZBERG THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE, WHICH HERTZBERG IS INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP. WHITLAM SAID HE WANTS TO VISIT ISRAEL BEFORE

END OF 1975. HE INDICATED HE HAD BEEN PUT OFF TO SOME EXTENT BY
INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE SHOWN BY PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR WHEN SHE
MET WHITLAM IN 1971 IN ISRAEL DURING VISIT WHEN HE WAS STILL
LEADER OF AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION.
GREEN

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